

REPORT

Of the Select Committee in the case of Willie Blount.

FEBRUARY 24, 1824.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

The Committee, to whom was referred Willie Blount's memorial,
ask leave to make a

REPORT:

That, during the late war with Great Britain, there were a number of troops raised in the state of Tennessee and in the vicinity of that state; those troops were often brought into action with Indian tribes, hostile to the United States, and at New Orleans with the British. That, to maintain those armies, the Legislature of the state of Tennessee authorized the Governor, who was the said memorialist, to borrow money from the banks of said state, to the amount of 300,000 dollars. That the said Willie Blount drew bills of exchange on the Government of the United States, to the amount which he borrowed, and which was afterwards paid. That other sums were drawn by him, making in all the sum of \$507,306 14, which was principally disposed of by order of the Secretary of War. Now, the said memorialist demands compensation for extra services, done as Governor of the State. First, a per centum for all moneys borrowed and received from the United States, and paid over to the quartermaster, for the use of the armies of the United States; and for the risk and responsibility of having been charged with those moneys by the United States: and, secondly, for interest on the aggregate amount, for an extraordinary and continued liability to account with the proper department, since the war.

Your Committee are sensible that the said Blount done his duty as Governor of the state of Tennessee, so far as it has come under their view, in relation to the services under consideration, but it is deemed, that he done nothing more than his duty, as a worthy and distinguished citizen of the United States. And here your Committee would beg leave to state, that the case of Daniel D. Tompkins,

late Governor of the state of New York, and which has no doubt given rise to the present inquiry, is materially different from the one under consideration. In the other, Mr. Tompkins advanced money out of his own funds for the benefit of the service, and his property was sacrificed in consequence of the United States failing to aid him in the discharge of those debts he had contracted by order of the United States, in the promotion of her service in the late war. Not so in the case now before us; for, it does not appear that the said Willie Blount has paid any money out of his own funds, or that any sacrifice has been made of his property. On the contrary, it is expressly admitted in his memorial, that the United States has paid him every cent he borrowed by order of the State Government. And it also appears from his account, as furnished by the War Department, and indeed by his own memorial, that he still retains a balance due to the United States.

It only remains then to consider the second point for the consideration of the Committee, whether the said Blount is entitled to interest "for a continued liability to account since the close of the war." And here we can only remark, that it appears, there is an account still open, and a balance struck against him, in the War Department of the United States. Now, we are not of an opinion, that he ought to be paid interest, because the United States have frequently demanded a settlement with him, and in consequence of which, he has had much labor in explaining, and endeavouring to shew, that the United States is indebted to him. From the investigation your Committee has made, his statement cannot be admitted. Therefore, if any interest ought to be paid, it is by him on the balance he owes.

From every consideration your Committee has been able to give this subject, they are forced, from a sense of duty, to come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the said claim of Willie Blount ought not to be allowed, and that he has leave to withdraw his memorial.